



Community Forest Advisory Board Meeting
October 13, 2010
11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Civic Center Plaza Bldg. -14th Floor, Large Conference Room
1200 Third Avenue

Agenda

- 1) Call to Order**
- 2) Introductions** – Members and guests
- 3) Approval of the Minutes** (Items 1, 2, + 3 = 5 minutes total)
- 4) Chair's Announcements and Updates** (5 minutes)
- 5) Working Group Reports** – 10 minutes each.
- 6) Discussion Item(s)** (10 minutes each, unless otherwise noted)
 - a. How can the Board contribute to the CFAB Presence at *Make a Difference Day*, Oct. 23rd?
 - b. Draft Barrio Logan Community Plan Urban Forest Policies and Recommendations – Lara Gates
 - c. Otay Mesa Street Trees – Theresa Millette
 - d. Review and discussion of Community Forest Advisory Board Website information.
 - e. Agenda setting procedures.
 - f. Establishment of annual tree planting budgets.
 - g. Ty Sterns and Eric Wolff from Urban Corps requesting feedback and support for new street tree planting concepts.
- 7) Action Item(s)**
 - a. --none --
- 8) Reports** – Items *not* already on agenda (3 minutes each report, unless otherwise noted)
 - a. Board Member Activities/Reports
 - b. Staff Reports
 - i) Drew Potocki, Urban Forester
 - ii) Michael Marika, Park and Recreation Dept. Arborist
 - iii) Ken Healy, Code Compliance Officer
 - iv) Tony Gangitano, Development Services Dept., Senior Planner
- 9) Public Comment** – (3 minutes each, topics are eligible for discussion or action at a future, publicly noticed meeting only)
- 10) Next Regular Meeting** – Second Wednesday of the month, unless determined otherwise.
- 11) Adjourn**

For more information or alternative format please contact Alissa Gabriel at 619.236.6460 or agabriel@sandiego.gov

Previously approved meeting minutes and the information about the Community Forest Advisory Board are available on the Commission's web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/cpci/boardcomm/cfab.shtml>

**Draft Barrio Logan Community Plan Urban Forest Policies and
Recommendations**
Oct 7, 2010

4.12 Urban Forest

Tree-lined streets enhance a community and leave lasting impressions for anyone who lives, works, or visits the community. Street trees are a significant and highly visual portion of the urban fabric, and are a vital part of the infrastructure system essential to the quality of life in an urban environment. Street trees provide economic, environmental, social and aesthetic benefits. Street trees can give a distinctive character to the community, establish visual harmony and continuity along the street, help to increase property values, enhance civic pride, absorb carbon dioxide, improve health, promote overall well being, reduce storm water runoff and produce oxygen and filter airborne particulates to help reduce air pollution. Shade-producing street trees should be the primary organizing element of the streetscape; restrictions and conflicts with other elements should be minimized to ensure consistent plantings.

Policies:

- A. Incorporate street trees along all streets and roadways.
 - a. Trees should provide a unified theme for the street. Variation of street tree species within any given block is strongly discouraged.
 - b. Optimize tree canopy cover – the optimum canopy cover will vary in accordance with street size, existing infrastructure, community needs, environmental limitations, and aesthetic considerations.
 - c. Provide an appropriate mix of drought-tolerant tree types in order to provide a diverse ecosystem more able to adapt to changing environmental pressures.
 - d. Provide a mixed age tree population. Including a mix of juvenile, young, and mature trees is essential to ensure a constant level of benefits from street trees.
 - e. Include a variety of species of trees throughout Barrio Logan to ensure diversity and distribution.
 - f. Provide varied forms, textures, structure, flowering characteristics and other aesthetic benefits to enhance the types of street environments found in Barrio Logan.
- B. Encourage and support community design and plantings of additional street trees.
- C. Where sidewalks/setbacks exceed a total of 15 feet, a double row of street trees (of the same species) should be provided.
- D. Protect and provide for the necessary care of existing street trees.
- E. Ensure that public agencies and private enterprises impacting street trees operate with common goals and objectives by:
 - a. Coordinating with public agencies and private enterprises impacting street trees to ensure that common goals and objectives are achieved.

- b. Reducing conflicts with existing infrastructure through proper tree selection and through the recognition of street trees as a vital and equal component of the City's infrastructure.

Recommendations

- A. Street trees should be spaced no further than 30' on center in planting strips, or parkways, between curbs and sidewalks to achieve a continuous canopy.
- B. Street trees within parkways should be planted at a minimum 36" box size. Other trees within setbacks and open spaces within the public right-of-way should be a minimum 24" box.
- C. Along residential streets, contiguous tree-lined parkways are preferred.
- D. Along retail or commercial streets, large trees in tree grates should be provided in lieu of contiguous parkways.

Small and Upright Trees

The following trees are recommended for 2 foot-wide or larger parkways, and 3'X3' cutouts. These trees ideally should be used as accents or on streets such as Sigsbee Street, Beardsley Street, Evans Street, Sicard Street where there is minimal right-of-way. See City's Street Tree Selection Guide for further details.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Spread	Type	Form
Crape Myrtle	Lagerstroemia indica	-20	-20	Deciduous Flowering	Small Canopy
Lemon Bottlebrush	Callistemon citrinus	-25	20+	Evergreen Flowering	Upright Canopy
Silk Tree	Albizia julibrissin	30+	-25	Deciduous Flowering	Small Canopy

Medium Trees

The following trees are recommended for 4 to 7 foot parkways and larger or 5'X5' cutouts. These trees ideally should be used on streets such as Logan Avenue, National Avenue, Newton Avenue, Main Street, Cesar E. Chavez Parkway, Sampson Street, Boston Avenue, 28th Street and 32nd Street. See City's Street Tree Selection Guide for further details.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Spread	Type	Form
Chinese Pistach	Pistacia chinensis	40+	40+	Deciduous	Large Canopy
Firewheel Tree	Stenocarpus sinuatus	30+	15	Evergreen Flowering	Upright Canopy
Gold	Cassia	-30	-25	Deciduous	Small

Medallion	leptophylla			Flowering	Canopy
Jacaranda	Jacaranda mimosifolia	40+	-40	Deciduous	Large Canopy
New Zealand Christmas	Metrosideros excelsus	-20	-20	Evergreen Flowering	Small Canopy
Purple Leaf Plum	Prunus cerasifera	25+	-25	Deciduous Flowering	Small Canopy
Marina Madrone	Arbutus marina	35	30	Evergreen Flowering	Medium Canopy
Holly Oak	Quercus ilex	-50	-50	Evergreen	Large Canopy

Large Trees

The following trees are recommended for 7 to 10 foot parkways and minimum 40 square foot cutouts. These trees ideally should be used on streets such as Harbor Drive, 28th Street and the linear park along Boston Avenue. See City's Street Tree Selection Guide for further details.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Spread	Type	Form
Chinese Lantern	Koelreuteria bipinnata	-40	-40	Deciduous Flowering	Large Canopy
Golden Rain Tree	Koelreuteria paniculata	-40	-40	Deciduous Flowering	Large Canopy
Tipu Tree	Tipuana tipu	40+	40+	Deciduous Flowering	Large Canopy
African Fern Pine	Podocarpus gracilior	40+	-40	Evergreen	Large Canopy
California Sycamore	Plantanus racemosa	60+	40+	Deciduous	Large Canopy
London Plane Tree "Bloodgood"	Platanus acerfolia	40+	40+	Deciduous	Large Canopy
Olive "fruitless"	Olea europaea	-40	-25	Evergreen	Small Canopy

Otay Mesa Community Plan Street Tree List

	Botanical Name/Common Name		T	H	CS	S	PS	DT	N
Community Corridor Tree List									
	Otay Mesa Road and Siempre Viva Rd.								
	Tristania conferta/Brisbane Box	Theme	E.	20-40	20-40	30-35	4-6	Yes	
	Fraxinus oxycarpa/Raywood Ash	Alt	D.	20-40	20-40	30-35	3-4	Yes	
	Pinus pinea/Italian Stone Pine	Alt	C.	40+	40+	35-40	6-8	Yes	
	Britannia Blvd. and La Media Rd.								
	Calocedrus decurrens/Incense Cedar	Theme	E.	40+	40+	30-35	8+	Yes	Yes
	Brachychiton acerifolius/Flame tree	Alt	D.	40+	40+	35-40	6-8	Yes	
	Fraxinus oxycarpa/Raywood Ash	Alt	D.	20-40	20-40	30-35	3-4	Yes	
	Airway Road								
	Koelreuteria paniculata/Golden Rain	Theme	D.	20-40	20-40	30-35	6-8	Yes	
	Albizia julibrissin/Silk Tree	Alt	D.	20-40	20-40	35-40	4-6	Yes	
	Archontophoenix cunninghamiana/King Palm	Accent	P.	40+	20-30	25-30	3-4	Yes	
	Cactus Rd., Heritage Rd. south of I-905								
	Geijera parvifolia/Australian Willow	Theme	E.	20-40	20-40	30-35	6-8	Yes	
	Albizia julibrissin/Silk Tree	Alt	D.	20-40	20-40	35-40	4-6	Yes	
Neighborhoods/Districts Tree List									
Northwest									
	Agonis flexuosa/Peppermint		C.	20-40	20-40	35-40	4-6	Yes	
	Albizia julibrissin/Silk Tree		D.	20-40	20-40	35-40	4-6	Yes	

Otay Mesa Community Plan Street Tree List

	(Site visit required to determine predominate existing species)								
South/Industrial									
	Brachychiton acerifolius/Flame tree		D.	40+	40+	35-40	6-8	Yes	
	Fraxinus oxycarpa/Raywood Ash		D.	20-40	20-40	30-35	3-4	Yes	
	Metrosideros excelsus/New Zealand Christmas		E.	-20	-20	25-30	3-4	Yes	
	Cercis occidentalis/Western Redbud		D.	-20	-20	25-30	3-4	Yes	Yes
	Tabebuia ipi/Pink Trumpet		D.	20-40	20-40	30-35	3-4		

TYPE
C.=Conifer
D.=Deciduous
E.=Evergreen
P= Palm

Characteristics
H=Height
CS=Crown Spread
S=Spacing
PS=Parkway Size
DT=Drought Tolerant
N=Native



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Home Contact the City

Business City Hall Community Departments Information Leisure Services A-Z Visiting

Search

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY CLERK HOME COUNCIL & COMMITTEES OFFICIAL CITY DOCUMENTS CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS INFORMATION & RECORDS MGMT ELECTIONS, LOBBYING & ECONOMIC INTERESTS FORMS CONTACT CITY CLERK

SEARCH CITY CLERK

City Boards & Commissions

Community Forest Advisory Board

- [Community Forest Advisory Board Web Site](#)
- [Members](#) (PDF: 49K)

Duties

- (1) Provide advice and recommendations directly to the Mayor, City Council and City Manager on all policy issues relating to urban forestry.
- (2) Advocate and formulate proactive urban forestry policies, ordinances and guidelines.
- (3) Prepare a recommended comprehensive urban forestry master plan and conduct a tree inventory.
- (4) Review and comment the coordination of urban forestry related policies and programs.
- (5) Network with other boards, agencies and community residents.
- (6) Act as a general information resource and promote volunteerism.
- (7) Review and comment on the implementation and compliance with urban forestry policies and programs.
- (8) Promote and seek funding for the establishment and sustaining of an urban forestry program.
- (9) Promote and foster a strong sense of community through urban forestry.

Appointment

Fourteen (14) members shall be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

Term

The members shall serve three (3) year terms and each member shall serve until a successor is duly appointed and confirmed.

Composition

In making the initial appointments, the Mayor shall appoint one (1) member who shall be designated as Chairperson and eight (8) members, one each from a list of two (2) nominations submitted by each Councilmember to represent their

district. Additionally, the Mayor shall appoint five (5) members who shall be a Landscape Architect; a Certified Arborist/Urban Forester; a Horticulturist/Nursery Industry representative; a People for Trees representative; and an Artist. The members shall serve (3) year terms and each member shall serve until a successor is duly appointed and confirmed. The member shall be appointed such that the terms of not more than five (5) members shall expire in any year. The expiration date of all terms shall be December 31. During January of each year, the Mayor may designate one (1) member as Chairperson; however, in the absence of such designation, the Board shall on or after February 15, select a Chairperson from among its members. Any vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term of the member whose place becomes vacant. The Board shall adopt rules consistent with the law for the government of its business and procedures.

Governed By

San Diego Municipal Code, Chapter II, Article 6, Division 5, Sections 26.0501, 26.0502 and 26.0503. Ordinance 0-18609 N.S., adopted 1/11/99. Amended by O-19119, adopted on 11/12/02.

[Return to List of Boards & Commissions](#)

| [City Clerk Home](#) | [Council & Committees](#) | [Official City Documents](#) | [City Boards & Commissions](#) | [Top of Page](#) |
| [Information & Records Management](#) | [Elections, Lobbying & Economic Interests](#) | [Forms](#) | [Contact the City Clerk](#) |

[Site Map](#) [Privacy Notice](#) [Disclaimers](#)

| [Home](#) | [Business](#) | [City Hall](#) | [Community](#) | [Departments](#) | [Information](#) | [Leisure](#) | [Services A-Z](#) | [Visiting](#) |
| [Search](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact the City](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Disclaimers](#) |



Community Forest Advisory Board

- [History](#)
- [Board Members](#)
- [What Types of Issues Does the Board Address?](#)
- [Meetings](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Contact Information](#)



The City's award-winning Community Forest Advisory Board is charged with advising the Mayor on all policy issues relating to urban forestry. There are fourteen board members appointed by the Mayor and the City Council.

History

The Community Forest Advisory Board was established in 1999 to provide advice and recommendations directly to the Mayor, City Council and City Manager on all policy issues relating to urban forestry. The vision statement for the Board is to "create mechanisms for establishing, advocating and stewarding, in perpetuity, a healthy urban forest and thereby a healthy, attractive and prosperous city." The board was tasked with advocating for proactive urban forestry policies, ordinances and guidelines.

Board Members

The Community Forest Advisory Board is comprised of fourteen members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council and represents community members who have a particular insight into local community forest issues. The staff of the City's Office of Small Business, in addition to their department responsibilities, serves as staff to the board, carrying out specific projects initiated by the board. Current board members are:



- **Vicki Estrada**, Chair
- **Patrick Caughey**, Landscape Architect Representative
- **Fausto Palafox**, Horticulturist Representative

- **Gail Roberts**, Artist Representative
- **Dan Simpson**, Certified Arborist Representative
- **Jon Becker**, Council District 1 Representative
- **Karen Landry Davis**, Council District 2 Representative
- **Victoria Heithaus**, Council District 3 Representative
- **Stephen Lamprides**, Council District 4 Representative
- **Craig Jones**, Council District 5 Representative
- **Mary Johnson**, Council District 6 Representative
- **Sidney Joseph Jones**, Council District 7 Representative
- **Tershia D'Elgin**, Council District 8 Representative

Additionally, staff from Development Services, Park and Recreation, Code Compliance and Streets regularly participate in an advisory capacity.

What Types of Issues Does the Board Address?

Promoting a healthy urban forest is high on the list of issues that the Community Forest Advisory Board addresses. To achieve this, the board is tasked with preparing a comprehensive urban forestry master plan and tree inventory, reviewing urban forestry related policies and programs, networking with other boards, agencies and community residents, acting as a general information resource, and promoting volunteerism, reviewing the implementation and compliance with urban forestry policies and programs, seeking funding for the establishment and sustaining of an urban forestry program, and promoting and fostering a strong sense of community through urban forestry.



As a result, the Community Forest Advisory Board has created the following documents:

- **[Five Optional Projects](#)** (PDF) - A brief presentation of five possible urban forestry projects the board is currently reviewing
- **[Benefits of Trees](#)** (PDF) - Ten irresistible reasons for planting and protecting trees
- **[Community Forest Initiative](#)** (PDF)- Strategies for growing greater shade-tree canopy throughout San Diego
- **[Urban Ecosystem Analysis](#)** (PDF)- A critical and persuasive new tool for managing our city's ecology
- **[Public Tree Protection](#)** (PDF) – Council Policy 900-19
- **[Community Master Street Tree Plans](#)** (PDF)- Block-by-block blueprints for green streets
- **[Heritage Trees](#)** (PDF)- Permanent protection for mature trees on public and private land

Meetings

The Community Forest Advisory Board usually meets each month and any

member of the public is invited to attend. Individuals and representatives of community groups may appear before the board to relate challenges impacting residents that are either caused by or can be resolved by the Community Forest Advisory Board or the City of San Diego.

Meetings Times and Locations

The Community Forest Advisory Board meets the second Wednesday of each month and any member of the public is invited to attend. Meetings convene at 11:45 a.m. in the [Civic Center Plaza Building](#) -14th Floor, large conference room.

Current Agenda

[August 11, 2010](#) (PDF)

Meeting Minutes

[June 16, 2010](#) (PDF)

[April 14, 2010](#)(PDF)

[March 10, 2010](#) (PDF)

[February 10, 2010](#) (PDF)

[December 9, 2009](#) (PDF)

[October 14, 2009](#) (PDF)

[September 9, 2009](#) (PDF)

[August 12, 2009](#) (PDF)

[June 10, 2009](#) (PDF)

[May 13, 2009](#) (PDF)

[March 11, 2009](#) (PDF)

[February 11, 2009](#) (PDF)

[January 14, 2009](#) (PDF)

[December 10, 2008](#) (PDF)

[November 12, 2008](#) (PDF)

[October 15, 2008](#) (PDF)

[September 10, 2008](#) (PDF)

[August 13, 2008](#) (PDF)

[July 9, 2008](#) (PDF)

[June 11, 2008](#) (PDF)

[April 9, 2008](#) (PDF)

[March 12, 2008](#) (PDF)

[February 13, 2008](#) (PDF)

[January 9, 2008](#) (PDF)

[November 14, 2007](#) (PDF)

[October 17, 2007](#) (PDF)

[September 19, 2007](#) (PDF)

[August 8, 2007](#) (PDF)

[May 9, 2007](#) (PDF)

[March 14, 2007](#) (PDF)

[February 14, 2007](#) (PDF)

[July 12, 2006 \(PDF\)](#)
[May 10, 2006 \(PDF\)](#)
[April 12, 2006 \(PDF\)](#)
[March 8, 2006 \(PDF\)](#)
[February 8, 2006 \(PDF\)](#)
[January 18, 2006 \(PDF\)](#)

Links

[Boards and Commissions Information](#)
[City's Urban Forestry Section](#)
[San Diego Urban Forest Council](#)

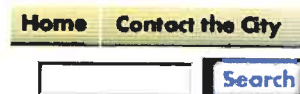
Contact Information

For more information on the Community Forest Advisory Board and upcoming meeting agendas, contact Alissa Gabriel at (619) 236-6460 or agabriel@sandiego.gov.

| [Community and Economic Development Home](#) | [Economic Development](#) | [Top of Page](#) |
| [Redevelopment Agency](#) | [Community Services](#) | [Press Room](#) |

[Site Map](#) [Privacy Notice](#) [Disclaimers](#)

| [Home](#) | [Business](#) | [City Hall](#) | [Community](#) | [Departments](#) | [Information](#) | [Leisure](#) | [Services A-Z](#) | [Visiting](#) |
| [Search](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact the City](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Disclaimers](#) |



Street Division Urban Forestry



Trees

- [What is an Urban Forest?](#)
- [Benefits of Trees](#)
- [Tree Selection Guide](#)
- [Maintenance](#)
- [Solutions to Tree Problems](#)
- [No Fee Tree Permit Application](#) (PDF: 24K)



The Urban Forestry Section oversees the planting and maintenance of trees and other vegetation along streets, sidewalks, and other City rights-of-way. The program works closely with nonprofit organizations to increase the number of trees in the City and help improve the quality of life.

Current tree inventory includes over 30,000 palm species and 170,000 various shade trees.

What is an Urban Forest ?

An urban forest is simply trees and vegetation in and around a town or city environment. In San Diego, the only part of the forest managed by public agencies is that which grows on public land such as along streets and highways, in parks, and around public buildings. Like a natural forest, an urban forest is an entire ecosystem which includes trees on both public and private property. However, unlike a natural forest, an urban forest usually needs help from people to survive.

Tree Selection Guide

The City of San Diego's [Tree Selection Guide](#) (PDF: 48K) provides information about trees recommended for use in the public right-of-way. The guide encourages selections that are compatible with the planting location, thus preventing damage to public improvements, while ensuring species diversity.

[San Diego Street Division Home](#) | [About Street Division](#) | [Services](#) | [Service Request](#) | [Top of Page](#) |

[Site Map](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Disclaimers](#)

| [Home](#) | [Business](#) | [City Hall](#) | [Community](#) | [Departments](#) | [Information](#) | [Leisure](#) | [Services A-Z](#) | [Visiting](#) |
| [Search](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact the City](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Disclaimers](#) |

Street Division Urban Forestry



Benefits of Trees

Our urban forest provides us with many long-term environmental, social and economic benefits.



- A single large tree can release up to 400 gallons of water into the atmosphere each day.
- Tree foliage filters dust and can help remove toxic pollutants from the atmosphere. The foliage captures and removes a wide range of smog-producing compounds such as ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, airborne ammonia and some sulphur dioxide.
- Mature trees help to cool and freshen the air we breathe. Not only do they moderate the air temperature, but through photosynthesis, their leaves take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen for us to breathe. A single, fully grown sycamore tree can transform 26 pounds of carbon dioxide into life-giving oxygen every year.
- Large trees remove 60-70 times more pollution than small trees.
- Mature trees improve our aesthetic environment, absorb noise, are traffic calming, reduce stress and crime, and create a peaceful place to relax or socialize.
- Trees provide positive mental benefits and healing qualities.
- Mature trees provide a sense of "home" to a neighborhood.
- Almost every city in our country has recorded a drop in the number of trees along its streets due to development, pollution, disease and neglect.
- Trees intercept rainwater aiding soil absorption for gradual release into streams, preventing flooding, filtering toxins and impurities, and extending water availability into dry months when it is most needed.

- Trees cleanse ground water as it filters through their root systems.
- Trees improve property values. The addition of trees and shrubs can increase property values by 10 - 20%.
- Water from roots is drawn up to the leaves where it evaporates. The conversion from water to gas absorbs huge amounts of heat, cooling hot city air.
- Trees help offset the "heat island" effect resulting from too much glass and concrete. A one-degree rise in temperature equals a 2% increase in peak electricity consumption.
- Urban neighborhoods with mature trees can be up to 11 degrees cooler in summer heat than neighborhoods without trees.
- Trees and shrubs slow down rainwater, helping runoff to soak into the soil at a slow and even rate. This takes the pressure off our storm sewers and allows for the renewal of ground water.
- One acre of trees produces enough oxygen for 18 people every day. One acre of trees absorbs enough carbon dioxide per year to match that emitted by driving a car 26,000 miles.
- Studies have proven for every dollar spent on maintaining trees, the public receives three dollars worth of benefits. It stands to reason that the public receives the most benefit from the preservation of larger mature trees and significant stands of forest.
- By preserving and protecting mature trees on private property, on our streets and in our parks, we will continue to help renew and enhance San Diego's urban forest for future generations.

| [San Diego Street Division Home](#) | [About Street Division](#) | [Services](#) | [Service Request](#) | [Top of Page](#) |

[Site Map](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Disclaimers](#)

| [Home](#) | [Business](#) | [City Hall](#) | [Community](#) | [Departments](#) | [Information](#) | [Leisure](#) | [Services A-Z](#) | [Visiting](#) |
| [Search](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact the City](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Disclaimers](#) |



City of San Diego

STREET TREE SELECTION GUIDE

This guide provides information for selecting street trees. Trees are vital part of San Diego's infrastructure, contributing energy savings, filtering Stormwater runoff and enhancing property values. This guide encourages choices compatible with the planting locations, minimizing damage to public improvements and promotes species diversity. Read all notes thoroughly prior to making any selection.

A Few Tree FAQs

Q. What if I want to select a tree that's not on the list?

A. You may select a tree that's not on the list, with written approval from the Street Division Urban Forestry Section. Email dpotocki@sandiego.gov with your proposed selection.

Q. What about native trees?

A. The City of San Diego encourages the use native trees and highly recommends them for areas where growing space and soil type are conducive to healthy native tree development.

Q. My neighborhood has a Master Street Tree Plan. Does this affect my choice?

A. Tree species must be consistent with the approved Master Street Tree Plans or other applicable documents. These plans have been developed for many communities. Check in the Landscape Standards of the Land Development Code from City of San Diego Development Services before making your selection.

Q. Do I need a permit to plant a tree?

A. All Street Tree plantings require a "NO FEE Street Tree Permit" prior to planting. Call Street Division at (619) 527-7500 to request a permit application.

Q. Who decides what trees go into the Tree Selection Guide

A. Tree selection criteria is developed by the City's Urban Forestry Section with input from the City's Community Forest Advisory Board.

Q. How can I find out what a tree will look like before I select it?

A. You can go to selecttree.cagr.calpoly.edu for an online guide complete with photos or you can visit your local nursery to take a first hand look at the tree and get planting tips.

If you have more questions about selecting the right tree for your location, call **(619) 236-8733**.

City of San Diego STREET TREE SELECTION GUIDE

{In areas with contiguous sidewalks (sidewalks that extend all the way to the curb), trees shall be planted a minimum of two feet from sidewalk. In unimproved right-of-ways, contact the Street Tree Section for more information.}
Root Barriers Recommended but Not Required unless specified.

The following trees are recommended for parkways 2 feet and larger, and 3'x3' cutouts. See notes for specific maintenance requirements:

SMALL AND UPRIGHT TREES:

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Height	Spread	Type	Drought	Native
Acacia pendula***	Weeping Acacia	SC	20	20	E		
Acacia subporosa	River Wattle	SC	25	25	E		
Acacia stenophylla**	Shoestring Acacia	SC	30	20	E		
Acer palmatum+	Japanese Maple	SC	20	20	D		
Albizia julibrissin	Silk Tree	SC	30+	-25	D/F	Yes	
Arbutus unedo++	Strawberry Tree	SC	30	20	E/F		
Archontophoenix cunninghamiana	King Palm	U	40+	-20	P	Yes	
Bauhinia blakeana*	Hong Kong Orchid	SC	20+	-20	D/F		
Callistemon citrinus~#	Lemon Bottle Brush	U	-25	20+	E/F	Yes	
Callistemon salignus	White Bottlebrush	SC	25	25	E/F		
Cercis canadensis***	Eastern Redbud	SC	25	25	E/F		
Cercis mexicana***	Mexican Redbud	SC	25	25	D/F		
Cercis occidentalis***	Western Redbud	SC	25	25	D/F	Yes	Yes
Cercocarpus betuloides	Mountain Ironwood	SC	20	-20	E/F	Yes	Yes
Chiionanthus retusus	Chinese Fringe Tree	SC	-20	-20	D/F		
Heteromeles arbutifolia***	Toyon	SC	25	25	E	Yes	Yes
Hymenosporum flavum***	Sweetshade	SC	35	20	E/F		
Lagerstroemia indica*	Crape Myrtle	SC	-20	-20	D/F	Yes	
Lyonathamnus floribundus***	Catalina Ironwood	SC	50	35	E/F	Yes	Yes
Photinia fraserii***	Fraser Photinia	SC	20	20	E/F		
Raphiolepis	'Majestic Beauty'	SC	-20	-20	E/F	Yes	
Syagrus romanzoffianum	Queen Palm	U	40+	-20	P	Yes	

Legend

Type

D - Deciduous

E - Evergreen

F - Flowering

P - Palm Species

Form

SC - Small Canopy Form: 15' to 25' spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet.

LC - Large Canopy Form: 25' and larger spread. Minimum spacing = 30 feet.

U - Vertical / Upright Canopy Form : 15' to 25' spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet

See last page for Additional Notes

- Revised 3/2005

City of San Diego STREET TREE SELECTION GUIDE

The following selections are recommended for 4.0 to 7 foot parkways and larger or in 5' by 5' cutouts.

Root Barriers Recommended for all applications

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Height	Spread	Type	Drought	Native
<i>Acacia baileyana</i>	Bailey Acacia	SC	30+	-20	E	Yes	
<i>Agonis flexuosa</i> *	Peppermint	LC	-30	-20	E	Yes	
<i>Arbutus 'Marina'***</i>	Marina Madrone	MC	35	30	E/F		
<i>Bauhinia purpurea</i> *	Purple Orchid tree	SC	-30	-20	D/F	Yes	
<i>Bauhinia v. candida</i> *	White Orchid tree	SC	-30	-20	E/F	Yes	
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Flame tree	U	40+	-25	D/F	Yes	
<i>Brahea armata***</i>	Mexican Blue Palm	U	35		P		
<i>Brahea edulis***</i>	Guadalupe Palm	U	35		P	Yes	
<i>Brahea brandegii***</i>	Hesper Palm	U	+65		P		
<i>Butia capitata***</i>	Pindo Palm	U	25		P		
<i>Calodendrum capense~</i>	Cape Chestnut	LC	30+	40+	D/F	Yes	
<i>Callistemon viminalis~#</i>	Bottle Brush	U	30+	-20	E/F	Yes	
<i>Cassia leptophylla</i> *	Gold Medallion tree	SC	-30	-25	D/F		
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	Desert Willow	LC	30+	-40	D/F	Yes	Yes
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	White Fringe Tree	SC	30+	-25	D/F		
<i>Chitalpa tashkentensis</i>	Chitalpa	SC	30	30	D	Yes	
<i>Eriobotrya deflexa</i> *	Bronze Loquat	SC	-20	-20	E		
<i>Eucalyptus erythrocorys</i>	Red Cap Gum	SC	-25	-25	E	Yes	
<i>Eucalyptus gunnii</i>	Cider Gum	LC	-60	40	E/F	Yes	
<i>Eucalyptus torquata</i> *	Coral Gum	SC	-20	-20	E		
<i>Fraxinus oxycarpa</i>	Raywood Ash	SC	30+	-25	D	Yes	
<i>Geijera parvifolia</i> *	Australian Willow	LC	35+	-40	E/F	Yes	
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Maidenhair Tree	U	40+	-40	D		
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Jacaranda	LC	40+	-40	D/F		
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	St. Marys* Magnolia	SC	25+	-20	E/F		
<i>Melaleuca linarifolia~</i>	Flaxleaf Paperbark	LC	-40	-40	E/F	Yes	
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia~</i>	Cajeput Tree	LC	-40	-40	E/F	Yes	
<i>Metrosideros excelsus*~</i>	New Zealand Chris.	SC	-20	-20	E/F	Yes	
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistache	LC	40+	40+	D	Yes	
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Victorian Box	SC	-25	-25	E/F	Yes	
<i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i>	Yew Pine	U	30+	-20	E		
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> *	Purple Leaf Plum	SC	25+	-25	D/F		
<i>Pittosporum phillyraeoides</i>	Willow Pittosporum	U	-25	15	E	Yes	
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium***</i>	Tarata Pittosporum	SC	35	25	E/F		
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> *	Bradford Pear	SC	-30	-20	D/F		
<i>Pyrus kawakamii</i>	Evergreen Pear	SC	-30	-25	E/F		
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holly Oak	LC	-50	-50	E	Yes	
<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork Oak	LC	-40	-40	E	Yes	
<i>Rhus lancea</i>	African Sumac	SC	-30	-25	E	Yes	
<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	Chinese Tallow Tree	SC	30+	-25	D		
<i>Stenocarpus sinuatus*</i>	Firewheel Tree	U	30+	15	E/F		
<i>Tristania laurina#</i>	Elegant Brisbane	SC	25	25	E/F		
<i>Tristania conferta</i>	Brisbane Box	LC	-60	-40	E	Yes	
<i>Tabebuia ipi*</i>	Pink Trumpet	SC	30+	-25	D/F	Yes	
<i>Washingtonia robusta~</i>	Mexican Fan Palm	U	40+	20	P	Yes	

Legend

Type

D - Deciduous

E - Evergreen

F - Flowering

P - Palm Species

See last page for Additional Notes

Form

SC - Small Canopy Form: 15' to 25' spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet.

LC - Large Canopy Form: 25' and larger spread. Minimum spacing = 30 feet.

U - Vertical / Upright Canopy Form: 15' to 25' spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet

- Revised 3/2005

City of San Diego

STREET TREE SELECTION GUIDE

LARGE TREES

The following selections are recommended for 7.0 foot to 10 foot parkways or larger and minimum 40 square foot cutouts.

Root Barriers Recommended for all applications

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Height	Spread	Type	Drought	Native
Arbutus menziesii	Madrona	LC	40+	40+	E	Yes	Yes
Calocedrus decurrens	Incense Cedar	LC	40+	-40	E	Yes	Yes
Cedrus deodara	Deodar Cedar	LC	40+	40+	E	Yes	
Cupressus forbesi***	Tecate Cypress	LC	25+	25	E		
Eucalyptus polyanthemos	Silver Dollar Gum	LC	40+	-40	E	Yes	
Eucalyptus leucoxylon	White Ironbark	LC	60+	40	E	Yes	
Koelreuteria bipinnata	Chinese Lantern	LC	-40	-40	D/F		
Koelreuteria paniculata	Golden Rain	LC	-40	-40	D/F	Yes	
Magnolia grandiflora	Southern Magnolia	LC	-40	-40	E/F		
Olea europaea~	Olive "fruitless"	SC	-40	-25	E	Yes	
Platanus acerifolia	London Plane	LC	40+	40+	D		
"Bloodgood"							
Pinus canariensis	Canary Island Pine	U	40+	-25	E	Yes	
Pinus pinea~	Italian Stone Pine	LC	40+	40+	E	Yes	
Pinus muricata***	Bishop Pine	LC	50	40	E		Yes
Plantanus racemosa***	California Sycamore	LC	60+	40+	D		Yes
Podocarpus gracilior~	African Fern Pine	LC	40+	-40	E		
Tipuana tipu	Tipu Tree	LC	40+	40+	D/F		

The following selections are recommended for 10-foot or larger parkways and 10- foot or larger center medians.

Root Barriers Recommended for all applications

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Height	Spread	Type	Drought	Native
Liriodendron tulipifera***	Tulip Tree	LC	>66	30	D		
Pinus torreyana	Torrey Pine	LC	80+	80+	E	Yes	Yes
Quercus agrifolia***##	Coast Live Oak	LC	65	50	E	Yes##	Yes
Quercus engelmannii***##	Mesa Oak	LC	50	45	D	Yes	Yes
Quercus virginiana+##	S. Live Oak	LC	50	40	D/E		

Legend

Type

D - Deciduous

E - Evergreen

F - Flowering

P - Palm Species

Form

SC - Small Canopy Form: 15' to 25' spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet.

LC - Large Canopy Form: 25' and larger spread. Minimum spacing = 30 feet.

U - Vertical / Upright Canopy Form : 15' to 25' spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet

-
- See last page for Additional Notes
- Revised 3/2005

Tree Selection Tips and Notes

Additional Notes(symbols in left margin relate to symbols that appear adjacent to various tree selections)

- + Prefers a moist, well-drained loam to which plenty of humus has been added.
- ++ Fruit production.
- * Approved for use under power lines and/or Public View Corridors
note: Palm species may also be approved for view corridors.
- ** Tree has been identified by the San Diego Regional Asthma Coalition as an Allergy Producer
- ~ Tolerates Direct Coastal Exposure (Typically 1000' from shoreline)
- # Root Barriers are required when used in less than three foot parkway and where specified

Minimum Size Canopy = 24" Box

Minimum Size Palm Species = 10' BTH (14' BTH at Bus Stop or Red Curb)

BTH = Brown Trunk Height = height from ground level to live fronds

Non-Irrigated Settings Recommended

*** Specific maintenance needs – may require supplemental watering following establishment. See local nursery for more information.

Revised: 3/2005

Street Division Urban Forestry



Maintenance

The General Services Department Urban Forestry Section provides the following street tree maintenance services as funded. We trim the trees for public safety. You may request a No-Fee permit for trimming, removal, planting or root pruning following inspection by Department staff. The criteria used for determining whether a tree will be trimmed are:



To eliminate immediate hazards:

This is trimming required for public safety. Tree Maintenance Inspectors will determine whether a tree's condition is an immediate hazard.

Provide visibility for motorists, pedestrians, traffic signals and other traffic control devices:

This is trimming of street trees required for public safety and may include trimming of vegetation on private property that encroaches on the public right-of-way.

Clearing the public right-of-way:

This service consists of removing lower limbs and other growth from street trees to provide adequate clearance for vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians, and construction activities.

Palm Trimming (contractual service):

The City Street Division trims trees for vehicular and pedestrian clearances upon request only. No-Fee Street Tree Trimming Permits are available either by calling (619) 527-7500 or via our online request system at <http://apps.sandiego.gov/streetdiv/>.

Tree removal (City forces and contractual service):

Only dead trees, or trees deemed an immediate hazard are removed from the

right-of-way as soon as possible. All other removal requests are evaluated for preservation or removal, per Council Policy 200-5.

If the City determines the tree must be removed in order to repair other infrastructure, concurrence of the abutting property owner is required.

The tree will be included on a list of proposed street tree removals, which is sent monthly to the City Council, Community Forest Advisory Board and all Community Planning Groups. If no objection to the proposed removal is received, the tree will be removed by City contractors. This includes full stump grinding. It can take up to 48 months from the determination date for the city to remove the tree and make any permanent concrete repairs. During this period, temporary asphalt ramping will be installed to alleviate any hazards in the public right-of-way.

Property owners may expedite this process by agreeing to repair any associated damages from the tree if removal meets criteria in Council Policy 200-5.

| [San Diego Street Division Home](#) | [About Street Division](#) | [Services](#) | [Service Request](#) | [Top of Page](#) |

[Site Map](#) [Privacy Notice](#) [Disclaimers](#)

| [Home](#) | [Business](#) | [City Hall](#) | [Community](#) | [Departments](#) | [Information](#) | [Leisure](#) | [Services A-Z](#) | [Visiting](#) |
| [Search](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact the City](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Disclaimers](#) |



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Business | City Hall | Community | Departments | Information | Leisure | Services A-Z | Visiting

STREET DIVISION HOME | ABOUT US | SERVICES | SERVICE REQUEST

Home | Contact the City

Street Division

Urban Forestry



Solutions to Tree Problems

The common concerns regarding trees in the urban environment are easily solved. For example:

- **Damage to sidewalks and building footings:** This can be prevented through proper plant selection, proper design, and new construction techniques. Also, trees can remain after roots have damaged sidewalks by root pruning, root barriers, sidewalk cutouts, sidewalk ramping, tree root bridge plates and/or sidewalk realignments.
- **Damage to property and power lines:** Proper pruning, tree selections and watering techniques can limit the amount of tree conflicts or unnecessary tree removals.
- **Road hazards:** Trees along neighborhood streets actually improve safety for adjacent residents and slow traffic down. While cars do collide with trees, these same obstructions prevent runaway cars from hitting pedestrians, residences and other cars. Trees should not be placed in or adjacent to travel lanes for higher speed roads.
- **Leaves and seedpods on sidewalks, streets, and property:** Properly selected trees can reduce the amount of leaf litter to a manageable level. However, falling leaves and seedpods mark the change of seasons and help rebuild the soil.
- **Cost of planting and maintaining:** Each mature tree can add upto 20% in value to a home. The benefit increases as the size of the tree increases. Trees can be planted very inexpensively and require less maintenance than grass mowing, groundcover maintenance or asphalt resealing.
- **Use of water and other growth resources:** Trees require less of these resources than most other surface coverings such as lawns or asphalt. Trees are good at capturing winter rain, so soil stay moist well into the summer months without supplemental water. Trees with shade also help to reduce water evaporation from lawn areas that do require more supplemental watering much more frequently than other landscape



materials. Additionally, when planted strategically around structures to cool and shade, trees can help save on energy costs.

- **Conflict with underground utilities and pipes:** Many of these conflicts have been eliminated with newer sewer pipes and electrical lines. Often root pruning can resolve this problem or newer pipes that do not allow for root penetration can be added.
- **Non-native tree species and environmental damage:** San Diego has many trees that are not native to our area, but neither are humans and all physical development that we rely on in the region. Areas adjacent to native riparian areas and slopes that contain native trees should be planted with other native or non-invasive indigenous species. Though some of these trees are not native, they do provide a role in the natural environment and have become naturalized.
- **Creation of waste products that fill landfills:** Many of the by-products of trees can be recycled or left to mulch in soils. Allowing trees to have a longer lifespan before removal can help to reduce the amount of waste product.
- **Blocking of views:** Views can actually be increased in their quality by framing. Trees that block substantial portions of important views can be thinned and shaped to allow views through the trees.

| [San Diego Street Division Home](#) | [About Street Division](#) | [Services](#) | [Service Request](#) | [Top of Page](#) |

[Site Map](#) [Privacy Notice](#) [Disclaimers](#)

| [Home](#) | [Business](#) | [City Hall](#) | [Community](#) | [Departments](#) | [Information](#) | [Leisure](#) | [Services A-Z](#) | [Visiting](#) |
| [Search](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact the City](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Disclaimers](#) |

NO FEE STREET TREE PERMIT APPLICATION

All Street Tree Planting installations require a *No Fee Street Tree Permit*, prior to planting (see application below) and approval by the City of San Diego's Urban Forester (City of San Diego, General Services Department, Street Division).

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT FOR STREET TREES (619) 527-7500

City of San Diego
Street Division -
Urban Forestry Section
2781 Caminito Chollas
San Diego, CA 92105

FOR THE REASONS LISTED BELOW I REQUEST PERMISSION TO:

PLANT _____ TRIM _____ ROOT PRUNE _____ REMOVE _____

REASON (Check One) Beautify _____ Diseased _____ Sidewalk or Street Damage _____
Construction _____ Other _____

LOCATION: _____

Party to whom this Permit is issued must comply with applicable provisions of Section 62.0601 to 62.0614 inclusive, of the Municipal Code of the City of San Diego. No trees or plants shall be used other than those specified on Permit. All permit conditions must be adhered to.

NOTES:

1. All Street Tree Selections shall be consistent with the **Approved Street Tree Plan** (usually in the Community Plan) and *The City of San Diego Street Tree Selection Guide* relative to recommended spacing, parkway width, root barriers, overhead utility wires, special installation, planting criteria for specific trees, etc.
2. **Tree Watering and Pruning to establish tree** (typically 3-5 years) is the **responsibility of the property owner** until accepted by the City.
3. Tree Pruning after establishment of the tree is the **responsibility of the City**, unless a Landscape Maintenance District or other maintenance mechanism is provided.
4. **Size of all Required Street Trees** shall be **minimum 24-inch box**. Palms to be a minimum of 10 ft brown trunk height (B.T.H.). All Street Trees shall be installed per the standards of the City of San Diego *Landscape Regulations and Standards*.
5. Street Tree Applications for more than one tree, must attach a list including the following information: Lot number, Parcel number, Address, Owners name (printed and signature); Quantity of trees listed by location and species; **Botanical name; Common name; Form of tree; Type of tree; spacing; method of watering; width of parkway, and the name of the approved street tree plan if one exists (see Street Tree Master Plan Reference List pg __ of the Landscape Standards.)**
When a change of property ownership occurs prior to acceptance by the street division, the tree pruning and establishment responsibility must be transferred to new property owner.
Copy of Planting Permit shall be provided to plan checker to clear project.
- 6.* Where removal of public trees is involved, the party to whom this Permit is issued shall cause to have the trees taken out INCLUDING the roots, stump ground to minimum 12" depth, the holes completely filled, and all debris cleared away at their expense. Adequate barricades must be provided to safeguard the public. At night a sufficient number of lights shall be kept burning continuously between sunset and sunrise.
***When tree(s) are being removed for the sole benefit of the property owner, the property owner assumes the responsibility of replacing any sidewalk/curb that was damaged by parkway tree(s). Sidewalk tripping hazards caused by removed City tree (s) are the property owner's liability until they replace the root-damaged concrete. Contact Development Services at (619) 446-5000 to obtain the required City permit to replace any root-damaged sidewalk or curb.**

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY	
Parkway Width _____	Ft.
Street Width _____	Ft.
Available Frontage _____	Ft.
Overhead Obstructions Y__ N__	
Corner Property Y__ N__	
Sidewalk Damage _____	
Inspected by _____	
Date _____	
Photos- Yes - No Circle one	

Please Print Name X _____

Signed X _____
LEGAL OWNER OR AGENT

(ADDRESS) _____ (ZIP CODE) _____

(PHONE) _____

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL POLICY

CURRENT

SUBJECT: PLANTING OF TREES ON CITY STREETS
POLICY NO.: 200-05
EFFECTIVE DATE: November 15, 1993

PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines for the planting and removal of trees from the street rights-of-way.

POLICY:

A. General Policy

1. The primary purpose of a street tree planting shall be to improve the environment of the City as a whole.
2. It is the policy of the City to encourage the planting of additional and replacement trees in the street rights-of-way and to render such assistance as is feasible.
3. When funds are available for tree planting, it is the policy of the City to plant additional trees in the street rights-of-way and to replace trees that are removed in accordance with the City policy for the removal of trees from the street rights-of-way.

B. Operating Policy

1. Planting and Maintenance of Street Trees

- a. The Park and Recreation Department shall specify or approve the species and locations of trees to be planted in the street rights-of-way in accordance with the standards and criteria in the City's Landscape Technical Manual.
- b. No fees will be charged by the Park and Recreation Department for permits for street tree planting.
- c. After planting of a tree in the street right-of-way, the owner of the adjacent property shall be responsible for watering and fertilizing unless an assessment district has been formed to provide the required landscape maintenance.
- d. The Park and Recreation Department shall be responsible for trimming street trees as required for public safety unless an assessment district has been formed to provide the required landscape maintenance.

2. Removal of Street Trees

- a. Street trees shall be removed at public expense if they meet any one of the following criteria:
 - (1) The Tree is dead.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL POLICY

CURRENT

- (2) The tree is a hazard.
 - (3) The tree is damaging public improvements, the damage cannot be permanently corrected by trimming or root pruning, the owner of the fronting property requests removal, and the tree is not part of a uniform tree planting or a significant neighborhood asset.
- b. A no-fee permit to remove a street tree at private expense shall be issued if both of these criteria are met:
- (1) The owner of a fronting property requests the permit.
 - (2) The tree is not part of a uniform street tree planting or a significant neighborhood asset.

HISTORY:

Adopted by Resolution R-179191 03/05/1964
Amended by Resolution R-185821 12/21/1965
Amended by Resolution R-282999 11/15/1993

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL POLICY

CURRENT

SUBJECT: PUBLIC TREE PROTECTION
POLICY NO.: 900-19
EFFECTIVE DATE: June 13, 2005

BACKGROUND:

In 1995 the City of San Diego recognized the value of developing additional regulations for the community forest when it adopted Resolution No. R-286098 creating the Tree Advisory Board. The main duties of the Tree Advisory Board include advocating and formulating proactive urban forestry policies, ordinances and guidelines to promote the planting of more new trees and to protect existing trees. In 1999 the City Council adopted Municipal Code Sections 26.0501 through 26.0503 additionally charging the Board with providing advice and recommendations directly to the Mayor, City Council and the City Manager on all policy issues relating to urban forestry.

In 2002, the Tree Advisory Board, now referred to as the Community Forest Advisory Board (CFAB), began working with City staff to draft an ordinance or policy that would protect community trees, specifically ones that have historical value, by allowing for the designation of these trees as heritage and landmark trees. The draft ordinance or policy also attempted to set guidelines for replacement of existing public trees and a procedure for saving existing trees.

PURPOSE:

To provide special policies to protect designated tree resources located in the public rights-of-way, on city-owned open space, in parks or other publicly owned lands, wherever practical. In addition, the policy will apply to private land restricted by dedicated open space easements. At the option of a property owner, a tree may be designated on private property for tree inventory purposes and for protection status. This voluntary action by the private property owner can be specified to carry with the property in the form of a deed restriction. Nothing in this policy will restrict the removal of any designated tree if the tree is a threat to public safety after reasonable efforts have been made for additional care, corrective actions or maintenance to correct these problems.

POLICY:

A. Definition of Tree Protection Categories

A community group, individual citizen, Council Member, Mayor, City Manager or designated city staff can ask for a tree protection designation under one of the four categories listed below.

1. Landmark Tree

Trees that are unusual or have a very high aesthetic quality. A Landmark tree is unusual due to: large size obtained for that species; special and intact aesthetic form; unusual shape not normally seen in most trees; very interesting flowers and/or branching patterns; or being a species of tree that rarely occurs in the City. The intent of this category is to recognize unusual trees that have achieved a landmark status and not to apply this category to a broad number of trees.

2. Heritage Tree

Trees that are naturally occurring or have been planted, qualify under this category if they are 50 years or older or have a connection to some historic event, building, district or were planted by a historically significant individual. Specific proof of age may be difficult to ascertain but research using aerial photographs or estimating based on the age of the adjacent development or the estimating based on the size of the tree can be adequate for this designation.

3. Parkway Resource Tree

Planted groups of trees in public rights-of-way, public parking lots or trails with a consistent design theme, are considered to be parkway tree resources when their overall size, health and form are relatively consistent. A consistent design theme usually requires that more than 50% of the parcels per block contain the same tree. Groups of different species that provide a consistent canopy over a portion of a street should be considered as parkway resource trees as well.

4. Preservation Grove

Naturally occurring trees in public right-of-way, open space, designated Environmentally Sensitive Lands or parkland may be considered Preservation groves. A grove consists of at least six (6) trees grouped in close proximity (within a one-quarter (¼)-acre area) with trunks closer together than 100 feet that are of the same species or are very similar in form. The trees shall be native, naturalized or endemic and surviving without intervention or supplemental watering. Non-native or naturalized species found within the following areas listed below, would not be eligible for protection under this Policy, though native trees within these areas may be designated as Preservation Groves:

- a. City-owned designated or dedicated open space containing Multiple Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) lands or Environmentally Sensitive Lands;
- b. City-owned designated or dedicated open space containing other natural areas found to have sensitive or endangered species, or that can be expected to sustain these species with enhancement and management efforts; and
- c. Privately-owned lands meeting the criteria in a. and b. above that have an open space or conservation easement placed on them

B. Criteria for Tree Protection Designation

1. All public trees within the City of San Diego that are classified as trees (defined as having a single trunk or can be trained into distinctive multi-trunks versus branches) and that have a caliper of at least 8" measured at 4 feet above the ground surface, shall be considered as potentially qualifying under this tree protection policy. The size of the tree caliper does not guarantee its qualification under this policy, though it does require that the tree be evaluated for consideration once nominated. These consideration criteria will require that all trees of this size be added to the tree removal review process as currently performed by Street Division. This requirement applies to all areas within the City of San Diego, including redevelopment areas and public parklands.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL POLICY

CURRENT

2. As required in other sections of this policy, all tree removal permit requests will be sent to Community Planning Groups, the Community Forest Advisory Board as well as to the Council members. Reviewing individuals will have the normal 30-day period to request an extension of time on the removal if they feel that the tree may qualify according to one of the four categories listed above. The City Manager's designee, considering any input received from community group members, the Community Forest Advisory Board, and Council members, will make a determination on extension requests and if the tree qualifies. If the tree qualifies, the City of San Diego Urban Forester or Park Arborist will designate the tree as protected.

3. To the extent budgetary resources are available, the appropriate City department will be required to cross-check this tree with any permits that may call for its removal. Protected tree resources will either need to be in computer databases, Geographic Information System maps or other hardcopy maps available to plan checkers in Development Services.

4. The City Urban Forester will assess an appraised value for the tree upon its designation. Up to a three time multiplier of the assessed value will become the basis for penalty if an individual is found to be responsible for the tree's illegal removal or damage that results in its death. The assessed penalties shall be used to fund any replacement trees or other mitigations as deemed appropriate from the City Attorney's Office and by the City Manager's designee.

5. Community groups will be encouraged to provide a community wide assessment showing those trees considered important community resources that may or may not qualify for tree protection status. The Community Forest Advisory Board will be invited to review and comment on the proposed designation. The Urban Forester, Park Arborist, or City Manager Designee, will be responsible for reviewing the community recommendations and any comments received from the Community Forest Advisory Board and either providing administrative approval or rejecting the proposed designations.

C. Measures Afforded Tree Protection Categories

Special protection offered trees with tree protection status, as designated under Section B include:

1. No permits will be issued for tree removal unless a clear, imminent and significant public safety hazard exists or if the City Urban Forester, in consideration of any comments received from the Community Forest Advisory Board, informed by a certified arborist's report and recommendations, determines that protection may not be the appropriate course and the project applicant or adjacent owner has agreed to pay 100% of the assessed value of the tree.

2. Tree pruning or root pruning will only occur under the guidance of a licensed arborist, with the written approval of the City Arborist. This shall not apply to root pruning that is necessary to protect the water and sewer infrastructure.

3. Extraordinary measures will be taken to avoid excessive pruning, topping or removals related to line clearance that may be required by the California Public Utilities Commission.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL POLICY

CURRENT

4. Regardless of sidewalk damage, no action will be taken that will result in the death of the tree. Sidewalk relocation or redesign may be considered.
5. Special techniques for extending the life of the tree will include, but not be limited to: limb supports, root zone protection and other disease control to be administered by the City.
6. Roadway widening requirements will avoid damage to trees where possible. When avoidance is not possible, tree protection during construction, tree transplanting or tree replacements will be required.
7. Environmental review of all projects requiring CEQA documentation will consider the protected status of these trees as a factor in determining potential significant impact to visual quality and community character resources.
8. When the designated tree is in the city street rights-of-way or on public lands administered by the city, as a priority, funds will be expended to allow for an annual inspection, pruning or other corrective actions that may be needed to resolve any particular public safety or sidewalk problem.
9. Trees damaging public or private improvements and utility infrastructure can be removed if damage cannot be reasonably corrected by trimming, root pruning, or other corrective action or adjustment, as determined by the City's Urban Forester. All trees so removed require replacement consistent with existing policies.

D. Penalties for Tree Removal or Damage without a Permit

The following fines shall be assessed to those individuals found to be responsible for removal or damage of protected public trees without a permit:

1. For protected trees, fines in the amount of 300% (or up to the maximum amount allowed currently under municipal code) of the assessed value of the tree will be levied for anyone found responsible for intentionally removing trees without permit or causing fatal damage to any tree found in the public street rights-of-way. The assessed value will be determined by the City of San Diego Urban Forester.
2. Any individual or company found to have caused the topping, excessive pruning or permanent disfigurement of protected trees within the public street rights-of-way will be subject to the same penalty as listed. Topping of trees is illegal under current State of California statutes and results in trees that are not only aesthetically inferior but are unsafe due to weak trunks and limbs.

All fees, in-lieu fees, permit fees and fines collected under this policy will be deposited into a tree replacement program administered by the City Urban Forester with review and comments on the uses of these funds provided by the Community Forest Advisory Board.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL POLICY

CURRENT

REFERENCES:

Council Policy 200-5, Effective November 15, 1993
Landscape Regulations, Chapter 14, Article 2, Division 4
Landscape Technical Manual, November 1989

HISTORY:

Adopted by Resolution R-300523....06/13/2005